

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9236

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FOR BOYATT, EUR/CYP AND CYPRUS TASK FORCE FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OGEN CY

SUBJECT: SOCIAL NOTES FROM NICOSIA

1. WE IN NICOSIA HAVE SLEPT (OCCASIONALLY) MORE SOUNDLY
KNOWING YOU ARE THERE.

2. THERE ARE 22 OF US PLUS 14 MARINES. WHEN THINGS WERE
AT THEIR LIVELIEST, WE RAN A SORT OF BARONIAL MESS IN THE
RESIDENCE AND THE REST OF US QUICKLY LEARNED THAT THE
IMPORTANT THING WAS TO GET TO THE CHOW LINE BEFORE THE
MARINES DID. SATURDAY NIGHT, FOR THE FIRST TIME, A NUMBER
OF US WENT OUT BY PREARRANGED TO TINA'S AND ATE AL
FRESCO AND WATCHED AYIOS CHRYSOSTOMOS BURN. WITH THE
CURFEW, MOST RESTAURANTS HAVE SIMPLY CLOSED AND RES-
TAURANTEURS HAVE TAKEN OFF FOR THE TROODOS WITH MOST OF
THE REST OF THE POPULATION, CAR TOPS LOADED WITH SUITCASES.

3. MARILYN VOLUNTEERED TO STAY WITH US. SHE IS OUR SOLE
SECRETARY, AND VERY POPULAR. IF YOU CANT READ SOME OF
OUR TELEGRAMS THEY WERE TYPED BY OFFICERS WHEN MARILYN WAS OFF
DUTY.

4. THE ARRIVAL OF THE TWO COMMUNICATORS WAS IN THE NICK OF
TIME. OUR TWO STALWARTS WERE ABOUT TO GO. WITH SORT OF
PICKWICKIAN IRRELEVANCE, MARION DREWS HAS SUBSEQUENTLY CON-
TRACTED THE GOUT, SO HE MUST SIT IN HIS HOUSE WITH HIS FOOT
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IN THE AIR. MEANWHILE, HOWEVER, THE THREE AMBIANT ONES ARE

DIGGING INTO THE BACKLOG.

5. IF YOU EVEN PLAN TO PARTICIPATE IN ONE OF THESE AFFAIRS FROM THIS END, LET ME WARN YOU THAT IT'S NOT THE SUBSTANCE THAT GETS YOU, IT'S THE WELFARE/WHEREABOUTS. WE SENT A CONVOY OFF TO KHEKELIA SOME DAYS AGO (IT SEEMS LIKE FOREVER), ABOUT 60 CARS COMPARIOSONED WITH AMERICAN FLAGS AND LOOKING QUITE CHEERFUL. WE THOUGHT WE WOULD HAVE SOME SURCEASE, BUT THEN THE WHEREABOUTS INQUIRIES BEGAN TO COME IN A CEASELESS, REMORSELESS FLOOD. OUR FEW LOYAL STAFF MEMBERS WHO DID NOT JOIN THE EXODUS FOR THE TROODOS HAVE BEEN WORKING LONG EXTRA HOURS WITH MIKE O'BRIEN. THEY HAVE ABOUT CAUGHT UP, AND WE HOPE THAT THE COMMERICAL FACILITIES AGAIN OPEN WE HAVE WON THIS BATTLE.

6. WE ARE KEEPING AN OFFICER ON WATCH 24 HOURS. FOR THE PAST COUPLE OF DAYS THE TURKS HAVE CONFINED THEIR MILITARY ACTIVITY TO MOPPING UP THEIR NEW TERRITORIAL ACQUISITIONS, AND THE CITY ITSELF HAS BEEN RELATIVELY QUIET -- AMOST SEPULCHRALLY SO, WITH A CURFEW, A PARTIAL BLACKOUT AND MUCH OF THE POPULATION GONE. THOSE OF US NOT ON DUTY HAVE BEEN RETURNING TO OUR HOUSES TO SLEEP, SO THE EMBASSY LOOKS A BIT LESS LIKE A BUS STATION LATE AT NIGHT. WE HAVE CAUGHT UP ON SLEEP AND WE ARE WELL AND PREPARED TO CONTINUE THIS HALF LIFE FOR AS LONG AS IT MAY TAKE.

7. IT HAS BEEN AN EERIE WAR. THE POWER HERE STAYED ON, AND WE ARE AIR CONDITIONED. THERE WAS SOME FIGHTING AROUND US DURING THE COUP, THE TURK PLANES BOMBED NEARBY AT THE BEGINNING OF THE INVASION. WE HAD RINGSIDE SEATS ON THE RESIDENCE ROOF FOR THE MASSIVE PARADROP ON THE PLAIN JUST BEYOND THE TURKISH QUARTER. SINCE THEN THIS AREA HAS BEEN RELATIVELY QUIET. WE HAVE STOOD ON THE ROOF IN RELATIVE COMFORT AND WATCHED TURKISH PARADROPS AND FIRE FIGHTS IN THE CENTER OF TOWN. SORROWFULLY, WE HAVE WATCHED THE WOODS ON THE KYRENIA RANGE BURN AWAY. OUR STAFF HAS BEEN PICKING UP BULLETS FROM THE ROOF AND AROUND THE COMPOUND AS ONE MIGHT COLLECT INDIAN ARROWHEADS. PHONES HAVE OPERATED INTERMITTENTLY TO OTHER PARTS OF THE ISLAND, ENVEN ACROSS BATTLE LINES. OUR OWN INTERNAL SYSTEM HAS BEEN MORE THAN USUALLY CRANKY, AND WE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ALL HAVE HAD TO THUNDER DOWN THE STAIRS TO TAKE IMPORTANT CALLS IN THE LOBBY. CLERIDES USUALLY CALLS WHEN I'M ON THE FOURTH FLOOR. I HOPE THAT EUR/EX WILL GRANT OUR LONG-STANDING REQUEST TO MODERNIZE THE EMBASSY SWITCHBOARD. OUR RECENTLY AUGUMENTED SUPPLY OF WALKY-TALKIES HAVE BEEN

A GODSEND AND WAS PARTICULARLY USEFUL DURING THE EVACUATION PHASE. EVERY

DECENT EMBASSY SHOULD HAVE A SUPPLY.

8. WE ARE PARTICULARLY APPRECIATIVE TO THE SUPPORT WE HAVE
GOTTEN FROM THE DEPT, ESPECIALLY IN THE FAST RESPONSE TO OUR
REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL COMMUNICATIONS PERSONNEL AND A TDY
SECRETARY.

9. WE WATCH THE TELEGRAMS FROM GENEVA WITH INTENSITY.
LINDSEY SAYS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS TO GET THE AIRPORT
OPEN BY AUG. 13. HE PLANS TO COME BY TO SEE YOU AND TO ASK
YOU TO REPEAT, VERY SLOWLY, ALL THOSE THINGS YOU TOLD HIM
ABOUT CYPRUS. I DONT LISTEN WHEN HE TALKS DATES.

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